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**To:** 'microsoft.atr@usdoj.gov'  
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**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

As a professional in the programming industry, and as a degreed computer scientist, I must comment on the anti-competitive actions of Microsoft. Repeated Microsoft has acted to thwart competition by leveraging it's various products in monopolistic ways which violate current laws. This practice has been, at times, creative and most certainly profitable. While this profit-taking, at the expense of the American public, has harmed them financially. The real damage has been committed on a fundamentally scientific level. Research into programming areas incompatible with Microsoft's operating system products is discouraged because of the barriers of entry to introduce products based on such research. Furthermore, Microsoft has proven that software quality is immaterial. Many times, they have release software which is clearly, and embarrassingly, lacking in even the most basic security features. Now that a significant portion of the infrastructure of American society is based upon these products, we are all at risk of the exploitation of these security flaws.

A fair settlement would:

- 1) repay the American public for their financial harm
- 2) allow the American public to access, modify and correct this essential part of our infrastructure (Windows operating systems, Windows Explorer and Windows office file formats) by publishing application interfaces (APIs) and source code for these products.

Microsoft has worked diligently to assure that we use their products exclusively and have marginalized the profitability of those who compete with them.

Now, we must act to assure that our computing infrastructure is secure, stable and a foundation for our future society.

Sincerely,  
Ian Ernst

Disclaimer:  
I am speaking for myself and not my employer.

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